

WOMEN READY TO DO THEIR "BIT" IF WAR SHOULD COME

Thousands of them are enrolling with new organizations and long established ones, prepared to answer "Here" whenever their country calls.

By ELEANOR BOOTH SIMMONS.

PREPAREDNESS is in the air. Everybody is talking it. Few as yet are doing it. But it's in the air.

American women have never been behindhand in wanting to do their bit in whatever crisis came along, and judging from appearances they don't intend that their European sisters shall have anything on them in the way of serving their country in case of war. Witness the thousands upon thousands who are flocking to offer themselves through brand new organizations and old established ones, through the Daughters of the American Revolution, through the National Special Aid Society, through the National League for Woman's Service, through the Girl Scouts, through suffrage bodies and anti-suffrage bodies, offering themselves for every imaginable work from rolling bandages and taking care of soldiers' families to shooting down invaders, running army motor cars and dropping bombs on the enemy from Government flying machines.

One fear troubles thoughtful women who look upon this outpouring of feminine emotion, patriotism, devotion. When I see the fervor of the question for the moment the pacifist women, which is not an easy thing to do, there being a good many of them, all excessively in earnest and very well equipped with the power of speech. The fear of the pacifist women that organizations banded together for some definite purpose, such as suffrage are going to be whirled out of their orbits into a mad chase around Mars, and that the love of some women for a uniform is going to hurry the United States into war with Germany—well, all this is being fought out inside suffrage and other organizations with more heat than you'd expect, considering that one of the parties to the difference believes in peace at any price and that nothing, no matter what, can possibly be a cause of war.

But let's put the pacifists aside for the moment and look upon the thousands upon thousands of women popping up all over the country, from Alaska to Florida, and saying, "Here we are, Uncle Sam, ready to help if you get into a scrap."

Probably the biggest and most ambitious attempt to mobilize the woman power of the nation is that represented by the National League for Woman's Service, which came into being in Washington, D. C., January 27, at the Congress for Constructive Patriotism. Its objects as announced were, first, to develop a clearing house of information about women's constructive patriotic organizations; second, to coordinate these organizations and get a standardized programme of activities; third, to recommend to the proper governmental agency a registry of the woman power of the nation, and also a woman's bureau under the Federal Government to deal with women's work and women's welfare. This was the big and splendid plan laid down, but even as it was adopted by the 500 representative women gathered from all sections of the country came the word:

The United States has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, and the 500 women, convinced that war might be imminent, put aside for the time their great project of a national woman's bureau, woman's registry, and set themselves to making an emergency programme, dealing with the formation of groups of women classified and ready to perform various kinds of work in a national crisis. It is this emergency programme which is being crisscrossed by the large force working under Miss Maude Wetmore, chairman of the organization committee, and Miss Grace Parker, national commandant. At the national headquarters at 100 West Fourth street, in a similar work, making a census of women and their efficiency, organizing them to feed wounded troops at railway stations, camps, etc., that engages the attention chiefly of the National Special Aid Society at 255 Fifth avenue. But the great need does come, will these women, mobilized things good deal in a position to make their energy and devotion count without duplication and without fuss, and will Uncle Sam have it fixed in his noddle that here is a force worth just as much honor and recognition and backing as his fighting men?

Right here is the fear that troubles—well, say, Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch. She isn't representing any organization, but as a voice crying in the wilderness she is worth a hearing, and there are a good many women who entertain the fear that troubles—namely, the fear that even as English women mobilized things good deal at the beginning of the war through lack of knowledge and cooperation, and even as English women who did have knowledge, like the medical women, were prevented from helping their country through that country's delay in accepting and recognizing them, even so woman's power may be largely wasted here.

The Women's City Club was Mrs. Blatch's last point of attack. She urged them last week, as she has urged suffrage organizations and others, to lose no time in joggling the elbows of the Government to the end that women be appointed along with men on the various committees that are being named at Washington to cope with possible war emergencies. She argued that to be of any real use patriotic organizations of women must connect with the Government, even as the Red Cross has the backing of the Government and has waged strong and efficient thereby, she said, that unless central committee, clearing

houses, were immediately established, women would be tumbling over each other and stepping on one another's toes in their efforts to be of some use. "For heaven's sake, don't wait till war has come," cried the voice in the wilderness. "Women must secure their standing now if they are to make their work count. Seven committees were named in Washington last week, and not a woman on one of them! Seven committees to deal with the welfare of the nation, committees demanded by the present crisis, and not a woman on one of them! Though some will have to do with matters in which women have an active part. Here's a case where the Government's elbow needs joggling, and I fancy Government would listen to a strong committee of women."

"I was in England in 1914-15, and I saw the disastrous results of the instinct of women to serve without standing or recognition—just to serve. I saw how much a country loses when it hasn't had its eyes opened in regard, for instance, to the value of its medical women."

"Directly after the outbreak of the war the United Suffragists of England set to work forming units—so many cooks, so many doctors, so many nurses, etc., in each unit—and offered themselves to the British Government for hospital service. They were ready to establish and run, unaided by man, a number of military hospitals. "No, thank you, ladies," said the British Government. "The United Suffragists of England crossed the Channel to France, where they established in forsaken abbeys and schools and all manner of buildings hospitals manned by women entirely, from head surgeon to gatekeeper. They were recognized by the French Government, and when later they were asked to go into Serbia and start hospitals there, the Serbian Government recognized them, and the splendid work they did for the wounded soldiers was noted abroad till at last the British Government awoke and asked the United Suffragists of England to please come back and start that hospital they offered some time before. The Endell Street Hospital in London was the result, and the joke of it was that Premier Asquith had to accept this hospital, headed by Dr. Flora Murray, who always took care of Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant suffragist, and Dr. Louise Garrett Anderson, who had often served her time in Holloway Jail."

"The recognition of our medical women is one thing for the women of the United States to insist upon at this crisis. Is there a woman doctor in the army and navy? Are there women doctors in our big city hospitals in New York? Everywhere in this country women doctors have to fight their way inch by inch, and I am pleading now not for the sake of the women doctors but for the sake of preparedness they be shown a clear field, that there be nothing in the way of their usefulness in the event of war. "I saw when I was in Europe how much the French Council of Women was able to accomplish by the intelligent cooperation of the French Government. When the Belgian refugees were flooding into France these women said to the Government: 'Get us registers of the Belgians in our country, and we will undertake to bring together scattered families.' The Government directed the Prefect of the Department to furnish the Council of Women with a register of the Belgians in their department, and the women brought together divided husbands and wives, parents and children, till some 30,000 families had been reunited. It was the women, with the backing of the Government, who clothed the naked refugees in France."

"Women are in demand to make munitions. The other day a call went out from a Government munition plant here in the East for women workers. Yet the training schools are closed to girls. Here in New York, for example, the manual training schools are for boys. Is it fair to deny girls the right to learn how to use the lathe when patriotism is likely to demand that they use it late in making munitions? Let our women insist that the

training schools be opened to girls, even as France has opened hers to girls. Now, in this crisis, is the time of women, for the sake of preparedness, to demand equal education for girls, that they may be fit to cope with the emergencies with which fate seems likely to face them?"

Mrs. Blatch's appeal didn't meet with what you could call a hearty response from the Women's City Club, which has rooms in the Hotel Vanderbilt and 1,500 members. There was an unexpected bobbing up of pacifists, who seemed strenuously to a resolution Mrs. Blatch offered moving the formation of a preparedness committee to form and bring to the attention of the Government plans for the mobilization of the woman power of the country. The pacifists insisted on taking out the words preparedness and mobilization, and by the time the resolution was referred to the executive committee of the club Mrs. Blatch found difficulty in recognizing her child. A member with an English accent said that Lord Kitchener had always recognized the women of Great Britain, and she thought women would never fail of appreciation when they did their duty. This last seems to be the attitude of most of the women who are offering their services to the Government today, and Uncle Sam's elbows are likely to remain unjoggled.

Uncle Sam or his National Council of Defence has gone so far as to ask the League for Women's Service to name three women who may be called on to confer with the council at need. The league appointed Mrs. Hugh Scott of Washington, wife of the Chief of Staff, Major-General Scott; Mrs. J. Willis Martin of Philadelphia, head of the Emergency Aid, and Miss Grace Parker. To this extent the League for Women's Service has the backing and sanction of the United States Government.

There is something absolutely overwhelming in the way vast numbers of women are, from day to day, being offered to Uncle Sam. The effect, it is true, is not quite so overwhelming when one remembers that there is quite a lot of duplication. Last week at a meeting of leaders of the National Council of Women seven million women were placed at the service of the country, but a few millions of these had already been offered as members of the National Woman Suffrage Association in a manifesto by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, and a million or part of a million who are D. A. R.'s had been offered by their president-general as Daughters, and there had been offered by Miss Maude Wetmore by way of the League for Women's Service. At this meeting of the National Council of Women, by the way, it was decided to start at once getting a national register of the fifteen millions or so of members and their capabilities to be placed at Washington's disposal. As this is precisely what the League for Women's Service is doing now, and the National Special Aid has been doing for two years, may it not be a specimen of the duplication Mrs. Blatch prophesied?

The League for Women's Service isn't telling how big it is, claiming that it is so busy organizing that it doesn't know its own size. But Mrs. Coffin Van Rensselaer, who sees you at headquarters and tells you what is being done by Miss Anne Morgan and Miss Maude Wetmore and Mrs. William Cumming Story and Miss Grace Parker of New York and Mrs. F. V. Hammer of Missouri and Mrs. E. R. Hewitt of New Jersey and Mrs. George Hoadley of Ohio and Mrs. George H. Isham of Illinois and Mrs. Willis Martin of Pennsylvania and Mrs. Thomas Owen of Alabama and Mrs. Lindsay Patterson of North Carolina and Mrs. William W. Sale of Virginia and Mrs. C. A. Severance of Minnesota and Mrs. Hugh Scott of the District of Columbia and Mrs. Lewis Stillwell of New Jersey and Mrs. Barrett Wendell of Massachusetts—they being the organization committee—well, Mrs. Van Rensselaer talks in terms of thousands, and the stacks of letters from women anxious to line up for Uncle Sam bear out her talk.

Well, all these thousands of women are being or will be asked through organizations everywhere to state information and registration blank

President Theodore Booth, of the Girls National Honor Guard, providing coffee and sandwiches to Naval Militia Men at Queensboro Bridge.

President Theodore Booth, of the Girls National Honor Guard, providing coffee and sandwiches to Naval Militia Men at Queensboro Bridge.

sent out broadcast what they can do that will help Uncle Sam and which one of the eleven national divisions of the league they would like to join. They can join the home economics or the social welfare or the health or the civics or the agricultural or the industrial or the medical and nursing or the motor driving or the signalling and map reading or the general service or the camps. And Mrs. Blatch, who is a member of the League for Women's Service, said that she would like to see a card register of women, not only the names of women, but their addresses, their ages, their occupations, their education, their training, their experience, their physical condition, their moral condition, their religious condition, their political condition, their social condition, their economic condition, their cultural condition, their intellectual condition, their emotional condition, their spiritual condition, their physical condition, their moral condition, their religious condition, their political condition, their social condition, their economic condition, their cultural condition, their intellectual condition, their emotional condition, their spiritual condition.

The National Special Aid Society, of which Mrs. William Alexander is president, but of which Mrs. William J. Hopkin, Jr., the vice-president, is taking charge, now because Mrs. Alexander is in Europe on some relief mission—the National Special Aid rises to remark in rather a grievous tone that two years before the League for Women's Service came into being it was busy getting a card register of women. The National Special Aid certainly has at 255 Fifth avenue drawers full of neat card registers, names of women, countless women, who have written on neat blanks where they live and that they can garden or raise poultry or drive a motor or interpret or nurse or sew, anything and everything under the sun. So if Uncle Sam wanted a woman to chauffeur an ambulance on the Mexican border, for instance, he could ask the National Special Aid, and the N. S. A. would turn to the register and in a twinkling locate a woman in San Antonio, Tex., who knows all about motoring and is anxious to serve her country.

The National Special Aid has a right to reflect with pride on the way it fed hungry soldiers all along the line when troops were being moved to the Mexican border. The business of feeding the soldiers left by a thoughtless Government to suffer the pangs of hunger is the particular bit the Girls National Honor Guard, headed by Miss Theodore Booth, daughter of Gen. Ballington Booth of the Volunteers of America, picked out to do. Clad in demure but pretty street attire, Miss Booth and her charming young aids, with the proper chaplains, have carried hot coffee and sandwiches to the men guarding the bridges.

The rush of the suffragists to arms has been the most surprising thing in this outbreak of woman's patriotism. "The vote is our aim and our only one," has long been the slogan of the suffrage organizations, and when Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, chairman of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, stood up before Gov. Whitman in Albany and offered him the services of the half million of women in the party with their officers in every one of the 150 Assembly districts of the State, telling him that this force, "organized and trained in cooperation," was ready to do whatever might be required for the country if war came, there was a gasp all along the suffrage line. Pacifists in the party grumbled, some indignantly left it, but patriotism seems to rule and the mass of the State "suff" up-

hold the action of their executive committee, which authorized Mrs. Whitehouse's offer. And now along comes the National Woman Suffrage Association, which has been conferring in Washington only last week on what that great organization can do for

the anti-suffragists, of course, are not behind the suffs in offering their services. Indeed, Mrs. Arthur Murray Dodge, president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, and Miss Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

These women are a part now of the League for Women's Service. Most warlike of all the patriotic women is Mrs. Henry Clarke Coe, president of the National Society of New England Women, for she has started a movement to teach American women to shoot straight with a rifle, so they can defend themselves or drive out invaders if invaders come. Miss June Haughton, expert rifle shot, has given the use of her studio at 133 West Forty-fourth street for the American Defense League, as it is called, to practice in. There are weekly shooting teas there, with rifle

and Mrs. Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

Uncle Sam, and they had Secretary of War Baker to tell them at a mass meeting they called the best ways for them to render service.

Even the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, that body dedicated to the object of getting the Susan B. Anthony amendment through Congress, is showing signs of a split over the question, "Suffrage first, or patriotism?" When the New York City committee led Miss Alice Carpenter, their chairman, ardent admirer of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, put through a resolution declaring they were right on hand if Uncle Sam needed them, it was the little rift within the lute of National Chairman Alice Paul's policy of "Suffrage first, last and all the time until we win." At the convention of the C. U., which meets in Washington just before inauguration, there is going to be a bitter fight over the point. It is a fact that any number of women in the C. U. feel that, important as the suffrage issue is, it should give way if the country goes under the war cloud; but if the C. U. admits any issue but suffrage it will do it over Alice Paul's head. And Mrs. Blatch, who is a member of the C. U., says she will not follow her purpose while she lives. However, local branches can leave the parent union, and various suffragists prophesy that some will if suffragists do as Alice Carpenter did.

The anti-suffragists, of course, are not behind the suffs in offering their services. Indeed, Mrs. Arthur Murray Dodge, president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, and Miss Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

These women are a part now of the League for Women's Service. Most warlike of all the patriotic women is Mrs. Henry Clarke Coe, president of the National Society of New England Women, for she has started a movement to teach American women to shoot straight with a rifle, so they can defend themselves or drive out invaders if invaders come. Miss June Haughton, expert rifle shot, has given the use of her studio at 133 West Forty-fourth street for the American Defense League, as it is called, to practice in. There are weekly shooting teas there, with rifle

and Mrs. Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

and Mrs. Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

These women are a part now of the League for Women's Service. Most warlike of all the patriotic women is Mrs. Henry Clarke Coe, president of the National Society of New England Women, for she has started a movement to teach American women to shoot straight with a rifle, so they can defend themselves or drive out invaders if invaders come. Miss June Haughton, expert rifle shot, has given the use of her studio at 133 West Forty-fourth street for the American Defense League, as it is called, to practice in. There are weekly shooting teas there, with rifle

and Mrs. Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

These women are a part now of the League for Women's Service. Most warlike of all the patriotic women is Mrs. Henry Clarke Coe, president of the National Society of New England Women, for she has started a movement to teach American women to shoot straight with a rifle, so they can defend themselves or drive out invaders if invaders come. Miss June Haughton, expert rifle shot, has given the use of her studio at 133 West Forty-fourth street for the American Defense League, as it is called, to practice in. There are weekly shooting teas there, with rifle

and Mrs. Alice H. Chittenden, New York State president, claim that the anti-suffs were ahead of the suffs in getting in their offer. A very pretty proffer, by the way, went recently to Uncle Sam from Virginia as a result of an anti-suffrage meeting called by Mrs. Francis K. Williams, the State anti-president. This is it:

"The women of the capital city of Virginia, formerly the capital of the Confederacy, in behalf of the women of their State of Virginia, freely offer to the nation the same services they gave to the Confederacy in 1861-65. This means that whatever they can give in money, service or substance, according to their respective capacity and ability, will be at the command of their country. They are ready to report promptly when called upon, whatever they individually can furnish or do, so that it may be registered officially."

But Some Fear That Uncle Sam Will Be Slow to Realize the Value of the Services So Earnestly Offered as John Bull Was in the Early Days of the War

practice and the cup that cheers. The league is already a large one, with clubs for the older women and junior clubs, and Mrs. Coe expects it to spread all over the country. She isn't the only exponent of firearms for women of course, nor the first one. Who that ever saw a drill of the Order of Military Women under Gen. Mrs. J. Hungerford Milbank in one of the armories borrowed for the occasion can forget the women in khaki? And there is the American Woman's League for Self Defense, Mrs. Ida Powell Priest president, with 500 members, confident that they are trained for military service. Both these groups have signified that they would be most glad to answer a call to arms and rival the early Amazons.

Mrs. Blatch doesn't believe it will help any for women to get into khaki and shoulder firearms. In time of war, she says, people are divided into two classes, combatants and non-combatants, and it is better for women to remain in the latter class, where they can be of more service and also in less danger.

Mrs. Blatch also opposes another patriotic activity of women, that put in motion at a recent dinner at the home of Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt. At this dinner it was proposed that the wives of officers in the army should undertake to secure and furnish relief for the families of soldiers at the front, as the society headed by Mrs. Vanderbilt did last summer, when the National Guard was on the Mexican border. Mrs. Blatch says the Government should look out for the families of soldiers, and not leave it to charity. At the meeting at the Woman's City Club, before referred to, she suggested that Congress be urged to put through a bill providing adequate support for the families of soldiers.

Well, there are millions of women ready and eager to line up for Uncle Sam—so eager that they are not going to impose any conditions or ask for Government recognition, apparently. How will they pan out? Mrs. Blatch says that if all the banners of the English women made incorrectly had been thrown into London harbor the harbor would have been choked up. Well, to err is human, and probably these millions of American women waiting to recruit will make a few mistakes if the chance comes to get busy. There are letters, for instance, received at the headquarters of—well, never mind what society, but letters saying that inasmuch as the writer had four grandfathers in the civil war and a number of ancestors in the Revolutionary War, and two of her uncles signed the Declaration of Independence, she feels that she can be of great service to her country. The writers of such letters never say what they can do—but they are patriotically burning to do it. There's something about the English women, seeking an outlet, but Mrs. Blatch says, even this can be turned to account if the organizations of women dedicated to constructive patriotism will work hand in hand with the Government—or, rather, make the Government work hand in hand with them.

PRESENTING THE CASE AGAINST THE CAT

His Enemies Accuse Him of Many Crimes and Allow to Him But Few Virtues

"SUPPRESS the cat!" is a demand made on the Legislature of this State according to a bill for licensing felines. Connecticut and other Commonwealths also are crusading against outlaw Grimaldin.

Millions of cats are leading lives of vagabondage. They roam the wilds, seeking what they may devour. Birds are slain by them in large numbers. They do harm in other ways.

The cat has an ancient history. Tradition has it that the creature appeared in Egypt about 1500 B. C., and being highly regarded there as a feline Sphinx snuggled down near the seats of the mighty and made himself very much at home. Mummy cats are found in the pyramids.

The first cat is believed to have been of African origin. Travellers from Greece, seeing the cats so comfortably ensconced in Egypt saw to it that some of them were brought to Athens, and from the ancient seat of culture the cat is supposed to have spread over Europe. The animal in Europe was adopted by man as a pet about the ninth century.

There is something so inherently wild about the cat that even when he reposes on silk cushions and has his fur combed with celluloid and has cream every day he has within him the old spark of savagery. Nicodemus, the chronic fester, brought from a back alley to train for first prize at the cat show, reverted to his old life as soon as the cage door was open.

The cat is of the race of the sabre-toothed tiger and is credited with an insatiably bloodthirsty disposition. He torments his prey. He has no abiding affection for those whose hands have fed him. Chateaubriand said to his friend M. de Marcellus that there is in the cat an ungrateful spirit which prevents him from being attached to any one.

is because she feels an agreeable sensation, not because she takes a silly satisfaction, like the dog, in faithfully loving a thankless master.

"The cat lives alone. She has no need of society. She obeys only when she pleases. She pretends to sleep that she may see the more clearly. She scratches everything on which she can lay her paw."

Edward H. Forbush, the State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, has just written a pamphlet on "The Domestic Cat." He quotes Henry Havard, who, as set forth in that nine times immortal work, "Un Peintre de Chats," considers that "the cat has conquered and domesticated man, reduced him to an obedient servant and required that he shall provide her with all the luxuries which she loves."

M. de Cherville, another naturalist of France, says that for two years he has been serving a kitten born under his roof and raised by his careful hands.

"Never," he wrote in bitterness, "has she vouchsafed a caress by way of thanks, nor consented to come to me when called with loving words and tender cajoleries."

Another arraignment of the cat gets forth that while he is a poor adder to man's domestic joys he is an all too good multiplier. Cats have from two to four sets of kittens a year, with from five to nine kittens in each litter.

The cat's natural enemies are now about extinct. Pumas will chase cats, but few can afford to keep a puma. The wolf is a foe of cats, but his relative, the dog, seldom goes at a cat in real earnest. The golden eagle preys on cats, but then again it is hard to get such an undisciplined creature as that on the job. So it is that even when cats get into the woods there are scarcely any natural enemies left. Unmolested they play havoc with the birds.

clear there are cat hunts from time to time which bring enormous returns.

Boston seized about 20,000 stray cats a year. New York averages about 25,000. Five years ago, when there were night raids on the ash barrel variety, 50,000 cats were slain in this metropolis.

Ernest Ingersoll of the National Association of Audubon Societies says that it is practically impossible to get at how many stray cats there are, because the statistics from the large cities are usually based only on such of the tribe as are removed from houses and neighborhoods by request.

"Countless village cats," observes Mr. Forbush, "stare, stray and feral, extend the pernicious influence of the species throughout the land."

Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History believes that there are not less than 25,000,000 cats in the United States, and that there might easily be twice that number. This would give one cat to every two human inhabitants if his larger estimate is accepted.

The principal good of the nationwide crusade against the "filthy false cat" comes from the friends of the birds. The cat is a crafty bird catcher by nature. Cats have been seen stretching crumbs on the ground and then lying in wait for the winged victims which are attracted to the feast so heartily spread. They have even been accused of deceiving birds within the reach of their paws by imitating the note of the feathered songsters. They climb the trees by night and day in quest of eggs and fledglings.

John Burroughs declares that cats kill more birds than do any other animal in this continent.

says, "Insist on keeping cats in the same number as at present all the splendid work of Federal and State legislation, all the labors of game and song bird protective associations, all the loving care of individuals in watching and in the scrub of bird law, and to save our native birds in many localities."

It is also charged that the cat kills squirrels and hares and rabbits, moles and shrews and fish and useful insects, while as a fatter he is greatly overrated.

Rat traps, when well handled, are credited with surpassing the cat in efficiency. The other day there was put on exhibition an illustration of the inefficiency of the cat. The cabin of a steamship was fumigated with the result that a mortal of one cat and twenty-four rats, which the cat was supposed to keep away. When the cat is right on the premises the mice play just as much as when he is away, say the enemies of the cat, only they keep out of sight.

Persons in a normal lifetime," insists Dr. A. K. Fisher, who is in charge of economic investigations for the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, "run across more than half a dozen cats that habitually attack rats."

When the cat is permitted to roam wild the experts decline to give him the slightest excuse for living.

"The known facts are," declares Mr. Forbush, "that the domestic cat, straying into the fields and woods, whether a pet, a vagabond or a wild dweller in the scrub, is a menace to wild life and a detriment to the general welfare."

As a further argument against the cat the charge is made against him that he disseminates disease by becoming the playmate of sick children and that he carries microbes in his fur, lockjaw in the scratch of his claws, and rabies in the bite of his teeth.

It is, of course, possible to teach a cat not to kill birds. One naturalist records that he taught two kittens to let birds alone by feeding them well and accustoming them to seeing birds near. In the scrub of bird law, and to save our native birds in many localities. As a remedy for all the ills charged against cats, it is now proposed in many States that cats shall be licensed. Cats not licensed would be destroyed. Another scheme provides for a tax.